

5600HA-GSM-gau (USMARC); GSG (OCLC/SOLINET)
City of Savannah, Research Library & Municipal Archives, Savannah, Georgia

Record Series #: 5600HA
Name: City of Savannah, Georgia Records – Board of Health
Dates: 1822-1866
Extent/Size: 6 volumes (1.0 cubic feet)

Organizational History:

The Board of Health was created by an ordinance in 1804, and was composed of one member from each ward, except Liberty, Elbert, Greene, and Columbia wards, which had one member for two wards. The ordinance was repealed in 1808, and City Council appointed a health committee of its own members (Gamble, pp. 82-83). Although records indicate a board was active in 1822, it was not re-established by City ordinance until 1823. At this time, the Board was composed of two members from each ward who met weekly from April to November and served a term of twelve months (Gamble, p. 146). The duties of the Board included: inspecting lot enclosures and yards; reporting filth in the streets and along the wharves; inspecting vacant buildings and privies; and reporting any violations to City Council (Code of Savannah 1854, pp. 14-19).

In 1859, an ordinance divided the city into three health districts with salaried inspectors in order to provide a more systematic discharge of duties. This new system was discontinued a year later in favor of the old system (Gamble, p. 235). The Board was again revised by an ordinance in 1869, which placed the inspecting and reporting responsibilities upon City policemen appointed to each ward (Code of Savannah 1871 p. 40). By 1877, the duties of the Board of Health were assumed by the Board of Sanitary Commissioners, which became part of the Health Department (Code of Savannah 1888 pp. 173-74).

The Savannah Health Center was formed in 1920, and by 1925 there was an agreement for the Savannah Health Center, the Health Department, and the County Commission to amalgamate their programs. This amalgamation formed the Chatham-Savannah Health Center in 1944 ("Summary of the Function and the Organization of the Chatham-Savannah Health Council," Georgia Historical Society Vertical File). The Executive Reorganization Act of 1931 created the Georgia Department of Health to oversee the local health departments (Georgia Laws 1931, p. 11), and the Social Security Act of 1935 was responsible for further expansion of the department. By 1939, regional agencies had been established, and, in 1972, the department's functions were transferred to the Georgia Department of Human Resources by an act of the legislature (Jackson and Stakes, Handbook of Georgia State Agencies, p. 47).

Scope and Content:

Record Series 5600HA City of Savannah, Georgia Records – Board of Health (1822-1866), is arranged into the following sub-series. See Scope and Content notes for each sub-series for further information about the content and arrangement of the materials.

5600HA-010 Minute Books
5600HA-020 Committee on Sewerage and Drainage Report

Related Series:

5600DC City of Savannah, Georgia Records – Savannah Drainage Commission.

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5600HE City of Savannah, Georgia Records – Health Department.

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Sub-series #: 5600HA-010

Name: Minute Books

Dates: 1822-1832, 1834-1838, 1850-1855, 1859-1864

Extent/Size: 5 volumes (0.05 cubic feet)

Sub-series description:

Sub-series 5600HA-010 Minute Books (1822-1832, 1834-1838, 1850-1855, 1859-1864) includes five volumes of minutes of meeting of the Board of Health. The books include: lists of ward representatives; reports from representatives on their wards; resolutions; appointments and resignations; by-laws; and records of interments in Savannah cemeteries. The interment records indicate the name, age, cause of death, physician, and place of birth of the deceased. The minutes also include reports from the Savannah Poor House and Hospital, and the U.S. Marine Hospital.

Arrangement:

Chronological

Inventory:

5600HA-010 Volume 1	Minute Book, 1822-1827
5600HA-010 Volume 2	Minute Book, 1828-1832
5600HA-010 Volume 3	Minute Book, 1834-1838, includes statistical census for Savannah (1835)
5600HA-010 Volume 4	Minute Book, 1850-1855
5600HA-010 Volume 5	Minute Book, 1859-1864

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City of Savannah, Research Library & Municipal Archives, Savannah, Georgia

Sub-series #: 5600HA-020

Name: Committee on Sewerage and Drainage Report

Dates: 1866

Extent/Size: 1 volume (0.15 cubic feet)

Sub-series description:

Sub-series 5600HA-020 Committee on Sewerage and Drainage Report (1866) includes one report prepared for the Committee in 1866. The Committee on Sewerage and Drainage was formed in May of 1866. This report, submitted in September, recommends the drainage of stagnant water to alleviate seasonal malarial outbreaks and to provide more habitable land. Specific recommendations included: draining the Vernon River and Ogeechee River swamps and various lowlands, including the Catholic Cemetery; repairing and extending the Screven and Bilbo canals; and restoring the trunks and dams on Hutchinson Island. The report includes specifications, cost estimates, and a description of Savannah's geographic situation. The report refers to a City Engineer's map which is not included.

Inventory:

5600HA-020 Volume 1 Committee on Sewerage and Drainage Report, 1866